

REMARKS

The present application was filed on September 26, 2003 with claims 1 through 24. Claims 1 through 24 are presently pending in the above-identified patent application.

Applicants submitted an Appeal Brief on September 19, 2007. A final Office Action was mailed on December 11, 2007. The final Office Action did not appear to contain any new issues and was not signed by an Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE), as required to re-open prosecution. Applicants' attorney attempted to contact the Examiner by telephone on March 5, 2008 and a number of times thereafter.

During a telephone interview on March 12, 2008, the Examiner requested that Applicants submit a "simple" response to document the telephone interview. During the telephone interview, the Examiner indicated that based on a further search she was inclined to allow the Application. Applicants' respectfully request a telephone interview before any further action is mailed.

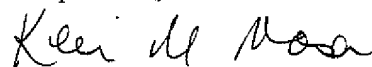
All of the pending claims, i.e., claims 1 through 24, are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

In the event of non-payment or improper payment of a required fee, the Commissioner is authorized to charge or to credit **Deposit Account No. 50-0762** as required to correct the error.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 12, 2008